

Exhibit A

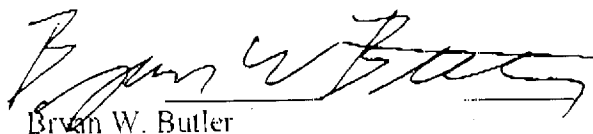
**DECLARATION OF BRYAN W. BUTLER
UNDER 37 CFR 1.131 ANTEDATING A PRIOR ART REFERENCE**

I, Bryan W. Butler, acknowledge that any willful false statements in the like are punishable by fine or imprisonment or both and they jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issuing thereon. All statements made herein are made of my own knowledge and are true and all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true. I hereby declare that I am the supervising patent attorney at IBM who supervised and managed preparation of U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/811,664 entitled MIRRORED VOLUME REPLICATION METHOD, APPARATUS, AND SYSTEM, which was filed on March 29, 2004. I have recently become aware of a prior art reference which has been cited against this patent application. The reference is U.S. Patent Application Publication No. US2005/0081091, to Bartfai, et al. (referred to herein as "Bartfai") filed on September 29, 2003, for a METHOD, SYSTEM, AND ARTICLE OF MANUFACTURE FOR RECOVERY FROM A FAILURE IN A CASCADING PPRC SYSTEM.

I declare that I exercised diligence in managing and overseeing preparation of the patent application. I authorized a patent search for the invention described in IBM disclosure submission form number SJO8-2003-0165 (which includes the main idea page and all attachments) created by John Thompson (inventor) on September 24, 2003. I authorized a patent search, which was sent October 29, 2003 and received on or about November 21, 2003. This is evidenced by the data filled in on page 5 of the IBM disclosure submission form number SJO8-2003-0165.

I declare that I authorized Brian C. Kunzler on December 5, 2003 to prepare the U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/811,664 on behalf of IBM. This is evidenced by the attached cover letter from myself to Brian Kunzler, mailed October 5, 2003. This patent application No. 10/811,664 was filed on May 29, 2004 by Brian C. Kunzler. I believe that all parties involved exercised due diligence in preparing, reviewing, and submitting the patent application.

Dated this 2nd day of February 2007


Bryan W. Butler